

U.S. Attack on Iran Would Take Hundreds of Planes, Ships, and Missiles

- By [Noah Shachtman](#)
- 09.07.12
- 6:30 AM



Two U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles and a B-2 bomber fly in formation. *Photo: USAF*

Should the U.S. actually take Benjamin Netanyahu's advice and attack Iran, don't expect a few sorties flown by a couple of fighter jocks. Setting back Iran's nuclear efforts will need to be an all-out effort, with squadrons of bombers and fighter jets, teams of commandos, rings of interceptor missiles and whole Navy carrier strike groups — plus enough drones, surveillance gear, tanker aircraft and logistical support to make such a massive mission go. And all of it, at best, would buy the U.S. and Israel another decade of a nuke-free Iran.

There's been a lot of loose talk and leaked tales about what an attack on Iran might ultimately entail. Anthony Cordesman, one of Washington's best-connected defense analysts, has put together a [remarkably detailed inventory of what it would take to strike Iran](#) (.pdf), cataloging everything from the number of bombers required to the types of bombs they ought to carry. He analyzes both Israeli and American strikes, both nuclear and not. He examines possible Iranian counterattacks, and ways to neutralize them. It leads Cordesman to a two-fold conclusion:

* "Israel does not have the capability to carry out preventive strikes that could do more than delay Iran's efforts for a year or two." Despite the [increasingly sharp rhetoric coming out of Jerusalem](#), the idea of Israel launching a unilateral attack is almost as bad as allowing Tehran to continue its nuclear work unchallenged. It would invite wave after wave of Iranian counterattacks — by missile, terrorist, and boat — jeopardizing countries throughout the region. It would wreak havoc with the world's oil supply. And that's if Israel even manages to pull the mission off — something Cordesman very much doubts.

* The U.S. might be able to delay the nuclear program for up to 10 years. But to do so, it'll be an enormous undertaking. The initial air strike alone will "require a large force allocation [including] the main bomber force, the suppression of enemy air defense system[s], escort aircraft for the protection of the bombers, electronic warfare for detection and jamming purposes, fighter sweep and combat air patrol to counter any air retaliation by Iran."

But the first attack might actually be the easy part, writes Cordesman, an expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.



A depiction of the ballistic-missile battle that could follow an American strike on Iran.
Illo: CSIS

At the same time, the U.S. has to keep Iran from blocking the ultra-important Strait of Hormuz, the 21-mile-wide waterway through which flows around 20 percent of the world's oil and liquid natural gas supplies. And America has to protect its energy-producing allies in the Persian Gulf, or else there will be no oil or gas to send through the Strait.

That will be no mean task, Cordesman writes: "Iran can cherry pick its targets in an effort to pressure and intimidate the U.S. and Southern Gulf states. It can use long-range conventionally armed missiles or drones against large military or urban targets as terror weapons. It can attack sporadically and unpredictably in a war of attrition or attempt to 'swarm' U.S. and Gulf naval forces."

Some of this defensive work has already begun. To keep the Strait open, the U.S. has kept up a [steady patrol of aircraft carriers](#) and stationed [gunboats, minesweepers, and robot subs](#) in nearby Bahrain. To spot Iran's missiles — many of which can hit their targets in as little as four minutes — the U.S. is building a [next-generation X-band radar](#)

[station](#) in Qatar. To knock those short- and medium-range ballistic missiles out of the sky, America has sold billions of dollars' worth of Patriot and Terminal High Altitude Air Defense interceptors to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates. Those anti-missiles will be augmented by U.S. Navy cruisers and destroyers equipped with [Aegis ballistic-missile defense systems](#) — one of the most-proven components in the American interceptor stockpile.

But to make sure Tehran's missiles don't hit Riyadh or Kuwait City, the U.S. will have to take out Iran's eight ballistic-missile bases and 15 missile production facilities, and 22 launch facilities if a preemptive strike is ever ordered. America will “need to destroy as many missile launchers as possible ... in order to reduce number of incoming warheads,” Cordesman writes. Each target will require two aircraft each — either carrier-launched F/A-18s or F-15Es and F-16Cs flying from nearby air bases — for a total of 90 jets. Auxiliary targets could include Iran's refineries, its power grid, its military bases, and its roads and bridges.

American jets and fighters will be pretty much free to fire at will — the Iranian air force is a joke, and its air defense systems don't have the sensors or the networking to seriously threaten U.S. jets. Still, those air defenses and enemy fighters will have to be taken out before they manage to get off a lucky shot.

Drones will be deployed for further intelligence, “deception, jamming, harassment, or destruction of enemy forces and air defense systems.” Special operations forces will conduct “direct action missions, special reconnaissance, and provide terminal guidance for attacks against valuable enemy targets.” Somehow, attacks from Iran's terrorist allies — including Hamas and Hezbollah — will have to be blunted, as well.

And then, of course, there's the main attack.



Destroying each of Iran's five nuclear facilities will require a pair of B-2 bombers flying out of Diego Garcia. Every plane will carry two of the U.S. military next-gen, king-sized bunker-busters, the 30,000-pound GBU-57 [Massive Ordnance Penetrator](#). The "GPS-guided weapon contain[s] more than 5,300 pounds of conventional explosives inside a 20.5 foot-long bomb body of hardened steel. It is designed to penetrate dirt, rock and reinforced concrete to reach enemy bunker or tunnel installations," writes Cordesman, who believes such a bomb can set back Iran's nuclear ambitions for years.

Israel might — might — be able to pull off a similar strike, but only just barely. It'll require using a quarter of the Israel Air Force's fighters, and all of its tanker planes, leaving no aircraft for all these other secondary targets. The jets will have to hug the Syrian-Turkish border before flying over both Iraq and Iran. And that is not exactly friendly territory. "The number of aircraft required, refueling along the way and getting to the targets without being detected or intercepted would be complex and high risk and would lack any assurances that the overall mission will have a high success rate," Cordesman writes.

And even if the reactors are hit, the "Iranian retaliation will have a devastating regional consequences," he adds. You don't even want to know what the Middle East would look like the day after Israel attempts a *nuclear* strike on Iran.

Which leaves the American attack option. It may be technically possible. "[It's clear that if the United States did it we would have a hell of a bigger impact](#)," Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said in the spring. Cordesman would rather see negotiations instead: "The brief shows just how dangerous any war in the Gulf could be to the world's economy." Some politicians may be calling for a preemptive strike on Iran. There's a reason military planners are so wary.

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America's war on Iran: the plan revealed

PAUL ROGERS 30 June 2012

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The third round of talks between Iran and the "P5+1" group, held in Moscow on 18-19 June 2012, ended in stalemate. A formal process will continue at a lower level, but amid an atmosphere of continuing mutual suspicion and in a situation where United States electoral politics work against compromise. Iran believes that most of the [P5+1](#) is bargaining that [sanctions](#) increase their [impact](#) until Tehran bends to its will, whereas Washington holds that it is the Iranians who are happy to prolong matters while they accelerate uranium enrichment (see "[Syria and Iran: a diplomatic tunnel](#)", 25 June 2012)..

Alongside these [calculations](#), at least some European (especially German) politicians recognise that any substantial delay in [negotiations](#) could well create the space for a unilateral Israeli military strike on Iran, an act that would inaugurate a lengthy period of deep instability and perhaps an intensely destructive war.

The high European commitment to [diplomacy](#) over Iran has in part been motivated by the risk of Israel attacking Iran. There is little doubt that Israel would be prepared to make such a move at a time of its choosing. It is of even greater concern to the Europeans, then, that indications have emerged in recent weeks of the Pentagon's own serious [engagement](#) in comprehensive multi-option war-planning.

A question of timing

The belief underpinning this hawkish approach seems to be that a short, sharp military action [directed](#) very precisely at Iran's nuclear and missile facilities is the only way to force a weakened Iran to "come in from the cold" and - once and for all - abandon its [nuclear](#) ambitions.

There is no settled consensus in elite US circles about to [handle](#) the Iran problem. Several powerful voices, including within the Pentagon, argue that the best option is to continue the mix of sanctions and sustained cyber-warfare (the latter in [collaboration](#) with Israel). Others, however, argue that there is a need to plan for war, with the question of optimum timing a central issue (see David Fulghum, "[Bombing Iran: U.S. military planners ponder when a kinetic attack might make sense](#)", *Aviation Week*, 25 June 2012).

The Pentagon advocates of a strike on Iran believe that the early part of 2013 might be the best moment. In their eyes, this offers three advantages. First, the presidential and congressional [elections](#) of November 2012 would be out of the way, with nearly two years to the next mid-session elections; thus any political controversy would have plenty of time to diminish. Second, the months between now and the point of decision would make clear whether there was any possibility of a political compromise. Third, keeping the war option open - and informing the Israelis well in advance - would make a lone Israeli [attack](#) less likely. The most hardline of the US planners hold the view that it is much better that the US "does the job properly" than lets Israel, with its much smaller forces, take the lead.

The planners emphasise here the sheer power of the United States military, especially the ability of the US air force (Usaf) to fly from [bases](#) in the region and combine with naval-aviation forces operating out of carrier-battle groups in the Arabian Sea.

The key weapons used would be the [B-2](#) strategic stealth bombers and the [F-22](#) strike-aircraft, which would overfly Iran after the latter's defensive radar installations had been jammed by the new miniature air-launched decoy ([Mald](#)) and other systems.

The B-2 strategic stealth bomber would be a key component, given its ability either to drop more than forty bombs in a single sortie or to deliver very large earth-penetrating bombs. But its dependence on extensive base-support facilities means that the B-2 can operate only from a handful of air-bases worldwide; the most relevant [candidates](#) are RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, western England, and [Diego Garcia](#), a British-controlled atoll in the Indian Ocean. Britain would thus be directly involved in the war from the start.

In addition to the B-2s and F-22s, other planes - F-15E and F-16 strike aircraft - would be deployed to launch joint air-to-surface stand-off missiles ([JASSMS](#)) from outside Iranian airspace. A key system here is the [AGM-158 Jassm-ER](#), a new version of which has a range of 575 miles (more than double the current 230-mile version) and is being deployed in 2013.

The Usaf planes would be central to the assault on Iran, but the US navy would also attack with sea-launched cruise-missiles (launched from cruisers, destroyers and submarines) and stand-off air-launched missiles (launched from [F/A-18s](#) flying from the carriers).

A state of mind

All these systems (and there are many others) amount to far more than Israel can deploy. But the distinctive aspect of the plan is less its scale or the perceived need to take charge from Israel than the idea that underpins it, at least among some of the planners: namely, that a focused, single-minded attack aimed specifically at Iran's nuclear and missile facilities will [intimidate](#) Iran into an acceptance that its nuclear ambition is a lost cause.

The respected defence journal [Aviation Week](#) quotes one strategic veteran: "We should give Iran advanced warning that we will damage and likely destroy its nuclear facilities. It is not an act of war against Iran, the Iranian people or Islam. It is a pre-emptive attack solely against their nuclear facilities and the military targets protecting them. We will take extraordinary measures against collateral damage."

It should be emphasised that an American attack is neither imminent nor even likely (at least for now). But if negotiations with Iran fail, if Mitt Romney wins the presidential [election](#) and the Republicans control at least one house of Congress, then things could begin to look very different in the early months of 2013.

Perhaps the most significant element of this scenario is that if it came to a [war](#), the Iranians would readily give up in the face of such great force. The assumption is [extraordinary](#), yet the underlying mentality is familiar: it also produced the belief that the Taliban was finished by the end of 2001 and the Iraq war was over in three weeks flat in March-April 2003. It seems that nothing has been [learned](#) from the experience of two long and bloody wars, and that is the real cause for worry.

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dag 7 september 2012

America's war on Iran: the plan revealed

by [Paul Rogers](#)



AGM-158 Jassim loading

(photo: Defense Industry Daily)

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Paul Rogers is professor in the [department of peace studies](#) at Bradford University, northern England. He is [openDemocracy's](#) international-security editor, and has been writing a weekly column on global security since 28 September 2001; he also writes a monthly briefing for the [Oxford Research Group](#). His books include [Why We're Losing the War on Terror](#) (Polity, 2007), and [Losing Control: Global Security in the 21st Century](#) (Pluto Press, 3rd edition, 2010). He is on twitter at: [@ProfPRogers](#)

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Geplaatst door Paul Lookman op 07:54  1 Comment

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Update

Time editor Tony Karon writes: "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ehud Barak appear to be dialing things down... It has been nothing short of astonishing, in fact, how isolated on the Iran issue Israel's saber-rattlers-in-chief have become over the summer, not least among Israel's own defense and security establishment... Netanyahu and Barak's bellicosity has ignited a remarkable degree of opposition among Israel's defense and security chiefs, who are reportedly unanimous in opposing an attack on Iran at this stage. Not only that, the public outpouring of opposition to a military strike among recently retired senior Israeli military men and security chiefs has included an unprecedented barrage of attacks on the strategic competence and even the mental stability of Netanyahu and Barak.

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Newsmax

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June 27, 2013



The Coming War With Iran: 6 Days in Hell!

Newsmax magazine's blockbuster issue has major cover stories, including an exclusive special report by Newsmax contributing editor and Iran expert Kenneth R. Timmerman, "**Six Days to War**," which lays out the scenario likely to unfold if the United States and Iran go to war.

In Timmerman's report, you'll find out why "**Six Days to War**" could happen sooner than you think — as many American assets are already "in position" for an attack.

Timmerman also details the deadliness and unintended consequences of a U.S. attack against an increasingly militant Iran.

That attack could come sooner than you think.

The former American commander in the region, Gen. David Petraeus, who now heads U.S. Central Command, also has told Congress that Iran is supporting Iraqi insurgents killing Americans. President Bush once said in a White House address that Iran, along with al-Qaida, are "two of the greatest threats to America."

Timmerman's report on the looming war with Iran is based on sources including top Israeli intelligence officers, military, and political leaders interviewed in Israel and Washington, D.C., and a key planning document — obtained exclusively by Newsmax — developed by the Iranian navy.

Timmerman is the best-selling author of "**Countdown to Crisis: The Coming Nuclear Showdown with Iran**." His "**Six Days to War**" report in *Newsmax*

magazine offers a scenario that represents one likely course a conflict with Iran might take, and explores:

- Iran's arsenal, including ballistic missiles, Silkworm anti-ship missiles — and chemical weapons facilities
- The first target of a U.S. strike
- How Iran would launch its counterattack
- America's military plan, Operation Clean Slate
- Hezbollah's response to the war's outbreak — a rain of missiles on Israel
- America's secret war power and technology
- The "nightmare scenario" — what if Iran already has nuclear weapons?
- How the U.S. would use its huge air superiority
- Retired Lt. Gen. Thomas McInerney's "Big George" scenario to disarm Iran
- The war's shocking effect on oil supplies — and oil prices
- The repercussions in Iraq
- How American strikes could cripple the Iranian navy
- The U.S. commando raids that target Iran's missiles
- U.S. bunker busters' devastating effect on Iranian nuclear sites
- The scenario's surprising end to hostilities
- And much more.

More: Newsmax details former Homeland Security Chief Michael Chertoff's comments that a nuclear terror threat on U.S. soil is real.

Also featured in this special edition of **Newsmax magazine** is an exclusive in-depth look at the former Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney. In our story, Ron Kessler interviews and profiles the former Massachusetts governor and reveals the real Mitt Romney — the one the media has been hiding.



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In addition to our in-depth cover stories and hard-hitting investigative reports, we entertain a constant stream of notable guests.

Past issues have included incisive commentary from such experts as **Bill O'Reilly, George Will, Kathleen Parker, Michael Reagan, Ben Stein** and **David Limbaugh** — to name a few.

This special edition of **Newsmax** magazine also includes:

- Student-visa terror plot foiled
- Children's book causes climate "hysteria"
- Russia says "nyet" to space race with China
- Haditha: What really happened
- States rebel against national ID
- NRA fires warning shot on gun control
- Celebrity rehab: The healing game
- Muslims accuse Glenn Beck of bias
- Jim Cramer: Media guilty of "fakery"
- Reverse mortgages are often a smart choice

- Chertoff: Nuke terror threat will "get worse"
- Lawmakers seek pardon for border patrol agents
- Ohio may draft poll workers
- New plug-in Wi-Fi device is affordable
- China bans adoptions to the obese
- Are you a "trysumer"?
- IRS change brings capital-gains cut
- Life-saving foods
- Dr. Laura: A great marriage isn't hard work

Again, there is so much more in **Newsmax** magazine, which won a Gold Eddie Award in the News/Commentary category of Folio magazine's prestigious journalism awards, the Eddies, and has now received a Charlie Award, the highest honor from the Florida Magazine Association, in each of five categories including Best In-Depth Reporting.

Ben Stein says **Newsmax** reveals the **"unafraid, uncomplicated, bare-knuckles truth about today's dangerous world."**

Mike Reagan, the elder son of the late President Ronald Reagan and chairman and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation, says: **"I guarantee that you'll love Newsmax magazine. The liberal media moguls hate Newsmax."**

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US elections conceal preparations for war with Iran

27 September 2012

Within American ruling circles, it is well known that plans for war against Iran are far advanced, but there is a conspiracy of silence by both political parties and the media to keep this reality out of the presidential election. The intent is to drag the American people into yet another bloody war in the Middle East on the basis of false pretexts and lies, despite broad popular opposition to an attack on Iran.

Nothing reveals the anti-democratic and fraudulent character of the elections more clearly than the refusal to explain to the American people the military carnage that is being prepared in their name and allow them to express their democratic will.

Over the past week, a number of commentaries in the American and European press have warned of an attack by either Israel or the US, or both, against Iran in the near future, and a bipartisan group of former foreign policy officials, retired generals and former legislators has issued a report outlining the potentially catastrophic consequences of an unprovoked attack on the Persian Gulf country.

Some of the recent articles have the character of a pre-emptive political strike by ruling class figures wary of a war against Iran, while others suggest that such a war is necessary and inevitable. The confluence of such commentaries is itself an indication that detailed planning for war is underway.

At the United Nations on Tuesday, President Obama reiterated that the US will “do what we must” to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney is pressing for greater US security guarantees to Israel, whose prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has criticized Obama for not moving quickly enough to launch military action.

But beyond such general threats, the reality of advanced plans for war is being concealed.

The *National Journal* on Monday posted an article entitled “The Path to War with Iran.” The article, prompted by a conference held last Friday by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy on the subject of US-Israeli coordination against Iran, began by noting the significance of Obama’s speech last March before the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. “Obama announced a new policy that put the United States and Iran on a collision course from which neither has veered,” the author wrote.

“Iran’s leaders should understand that I do not have a policy of containment,” Obama declared at the time. “I have a policy to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon... I will not hesitate to use force when it is necessary to defend the United States and its interests.”

Commenting on the implications of Obama rejecting a policy of “containing” a nuclear Iran, the author wrote: “Either Tehran would have to abandon its suspected nuclear weapons program, or the president was all but pledging a preventive war to destroy it.”

He then noted that Washington has deployed the largest US naval armada to the Persian Gulf in years and that the US Senate last Friday passed a bipartisan resolution, cosponsored by more than three-fourths of the chamber, ruling out a strategy of containment in regard to Iran.

The article quoted David Makovsky, an Israel “expert” and senior fellow at the Washington Institute, saying that the next administration, whether headed by Obama or Romney, will be under “intense pressure” to launch a military attack on the oil-rich country. Patrick Clawson, an Iran “expert” and director of research at the Washington Institute, said that, “[R]ight now we are headed towards war.”

The German daily *Süddeutsche Zeitung* published an article on Monday headlined “Dangerous War Rhetoric” that began: “When everyone is talking of war, a spark is sufficient to ignite one.”

The article compared the current situation in the Middle East to the eve of World War I, warning, “From a European perspective, things seem much like Europe in 1914.” It went to say that war could be set off by “an unplanned incident between US and Iranian ships in the Persian Gulf, a miscalculation of the Israeli or of the Iranian military, or a significant terrorist attack.”

Albert Hunt, Washington editor at Bloomberg News, published an article in *Newsday*, also last Monday, headlined “Americans Deserve a Pre-Emptive Debate on Attacking Iran.” He began: “The last two presidents have misled voters on the cost of armed conflicts. Amid another election, the drumbeats of war are sounding again. This time the subject is Iran. To paraphrase Ronald Reagan: Here we go again.”

Some of the disastrous consequences such a war could have were spelled out in a [report](#) released last week by the Iran Project, a bipartisan panel of former leading US diplomats, military officers and congressmen.

They wrote, “Even in order to fulfill the stated objective of ensuring that Iran never acquires a nuclear bomb, the US would need to conduct a substantially expanded air and sea war over a prolonged period of time, likely several years. If the US decided to seek a more ambitious objective, such as regime change in Iran or undermining Iran’s influence in the region, then an even greater commitment of force would be required to occupy all or part of the country. Given Iran’s large size and population, and the strength of Iranian nationalism, we estimated that the occupation of Iran would require a commitment of resources and personnel greater than what the US has expended over the past 10 years in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars combined.”

The report pointed to risks of “all-out regional war” in the Middle East, of unidentified allies of Iran (such as Russia or China) acting to help Iran repel US attacks, and of a global economic collapse.

There is also the possibility that the US or Israel might employ nuclear weapons. During the 2008 Democratic primary campaign, Hillary Clinton threatened to “obliterate” Iran.

The American ruling class has a long history of organizing wars of aggression behind the backs of the American people. President Lyndon Johnson ran for election in 1964 pledging to avoid a major war in Vietnam, even as he was planning to escalate the US intervention. He notoriously told the military brass, “Just let me get elected, and then you can have your war.”

In the 2000 presidential election, plans for an attack on Iraq were concealed by both Bush and Gore. In the 2002 mid-term election, the Democrats made a calculated decision, despite broad popular opposition to Bush’s war plans, not to discuss the advanced preparations for an invasion.

In 2008, Obama postured as an anti-war candidate, and proceeded once in office to continue the war in Iraq, expand the carnage in Afghanistan and extend US military aggression and subversion to Pakistan, Libya and Syria.

Whatever pledges of military action Obama and Romney may have given Netanyahu, they are for criminal acts of aggression carried out with contempt for US and Israeli public opinion. A

recent poll by the Chicago Council for Global Affairs found 70 percent opposition in America to a US strike on Iran. Another poll found only 32 percent support in Israel for an Israeli strike.

This is a damning indictment of American capitalism and of the American political system. Even after hundreds of thousands of lives were lost and trillions of dollars squandered in unpopular wars for US control of the oil-rich Middle East, US imperialism is pressing ahead with plans for a new, even deadlier war.

The American people must be warned: A vast crime is being prepared behind your backs and in your name! Unless the war criminals in the White House, the Pentagon and the CIA are disarmed and held to account, ever-more bloody regional wars will coalesce into another global conflagration.

The working class is the social force that can prevent this, but only if it breaks free of the Democratic Party and the two-party system and takes the path of mass political struggle for the overthrow of the capitalism, the root cause of war, and the establishment of socialism.

Barry Grey

<http://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2012/09/pers-s27.html>

British Won't Go Along with Illegal Iran War Planning by Americans

Ed Krayewski | Oct. 26, 2012 3:58 pm

How far a decade can go politically without going too far at all. Ten years ago, a Republican president and a Labour prime minister mobilized the Anglo-American alliance for an invasion of Iraq. Now, a Democratic administration has been rebuffed by the Conservative UK government (in coalition with the Liberal Democrats) in an attempt to secure a plan for invading [Iran](#). As [noted](#) on Reason 24/7, the British government has been advised by its attorney general that complying with American requests to use U.S. bases on the British territorial possession of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean and British bases in Cyprus in plans to strike Iran would violate international law, because Iran does not yet pose a clear and present danger. From [The Guardian](#):

"The UK would be in breach of international law if it facilitated what amounted to a pre-emptive strike on Iran," said a senior Whitehall source. "It is explicit. The government has been using this to push back against the Americans."

Sources said the US had yet to make a formal request to the British government, and that they did not believe an acceleration towards conflict was imminent or more likely. The discussions so far had been to scope out the British position, they said.

"But I think the US has been surprised that ministers have been reluctant to provide assurances about this kind of upfront assistance," said one source. "They'd expect resistance from senior Liberal Democrats, but it's Tories as well. That has come as a bit of a surprise."

A contingent of British naval ships remain in the Persian Gulf, but the British continue to point to diplomacy:

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "As we continue to make clear, the government does not believe military action against Iran is the right course of action at this time, although no option is off the table. We believe that the twin-track approach of pressure through sanctions, which are having an impact, and engagement with Iran is the best way to resolve the nuclear issue. We are not going to speculate about scenarios in which military action would be legal. That would depend on the circumstances at the time."

Nobody wants a war (or "another Iraq," as Romney put it at the debate) but it'll stay quite on the table for all sides.

<http://reason.com/blog/2012/10/26/british-wont-go-along-with-illegal-iran>

US 'Iran attack plans' revealed

US contingency plans for air strikes on Iran extend beyond nuclear sites and include most of the country's military infrastructure, the BBC has learned.



USS John C Stennis is being deployed to the Persian Gulf

It is understood that any such attack - if ordered - would target Iranian air bases, naval bases, missile facilities and command-and-control centres.

The US insists it is not planning to attack, and is trying to persuade Tehran to stop uranium enrichment.

The UN has urged Iran to stop the programme or face economic sanctions.

But diplomatic sources have told the BBC that as a fallback plan, senior officials at Central Command in Florida have

already selected their target sets inside Iran.

That list includes Iran's uranium enrichment plant at Natanz. Facilities at Isfahan, Arak and Bushehr are also on the target list, the sources say.



The Natanz plant is buried under concrete, metal and earth

Two triggers

BBC security correspondent Frank Gardner says the trigger for such an attack reportedly includes any confirmation that Iran was developing a nuclear weapon - which it denies.

Alternatively, our correspondent adds, a high-casualty attack on US forces in neighbouring Iraq could also trigger a bombing campaign if it were traced directly back to Tehran.

Long range B2 stealth bombers would drop so-called "bunker-busting" bombs in an effort to penetrate the Natanz site, which is buried some 25m (27 yards) underground.

The BBC's Tehran correspondent Frances Harrison says the news that there are now two possible triggers for an attack is a concern to Iranians.

Authorities insist there is no cause for alarm but ordinary people are now becoming a little worried, she says.

Deadline

Earlier this month US officers in Iraq said they had evidence Iran was providing weapons to Iraqi Shia militias. However the most senior US military officer later cast doubt on this, saying that they only had proof that weapons "made in Iran" were being used in Iraq.

Gen Peter Pace, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, said he did not know that the Iranian government "clearly knows or is complicit" in this.

At the time, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said the accusations were "excuses to prolong the stay" of US forces in Iraq.

Middle East analysts have recently voiced their fears of catastrophic consequences for any such US attack on Iran.

Britain's previous ambassador to Tehran, Sir Richard Dalton, told the BBC it would backfire badly by probably encouraging the Iranian government to develop a nuclear weapon in the long term.

Last year Iran resumed uranium enrichment - a process that can make fuel for power stations or, if greatly enriched, material for a nuclear bomb.

Tehran insists its programme is for civil use only, but Western countries suspect Iran is trying to build nuclear weapons.

The UN Security Council has called on Iran to suspend its enrichment of uranium by 21 February.

If it does not, and if the International Atomic Energy Agency confirms this, the resolution says that further economic sanctions will be considered.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6376639.stm

US plans to make Iran a major war zone

*** A senior US intelligence insider has leaked Pentagon plans to "go into Iran and destroy as much of the military infrastructure as possible". The source informed a highly respected American journalist that the Bush administration want to make Iran into "a huge war zone." ***

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States has been conducting secret reconnaissance missions inside Iran to help identify potential nuclear, chemical and missile targets, The New Yorker magazine reported on Sunday.

The article, by award-winning reporter Seymour Hersh, said the secret missions have been going on at least since last summer with the goal of identifying target information for three dozen or more suspected sites.

Hersh quotes one government consultant with close ties to the Pentagon as saying, "The civilians in the Pentagon want to go into Iran and destroy as much of the military infrastructure as possible."

One former high-level intelligence official told The New Yorker, "This is a war against terrorism, and Iraq is just one campaign. The Bush administration is looking at this as a huge war zone. Next, we're going to have the Iranian campaign."

The White House said Iran is a concern and a threat that needs to be taken seriously. But it disputed the report by Hersh, who last year exposed the extent of prisoner abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

SOURCES

Reuters, "U.S. conducting secret missions inside Iran - report", 16 January 2005.
<http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=7337823>

BBC News, "US special forces 'inside Iran'", 17 January 2005.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/4180087.stm>

US commandos are operating inside Iran selecting sites for future air strikes, says the American investigative reporter Seymour Hersh.

In the New Yorker magazine, Hersh says intelligence officials have revealed that Iran is the Bush administration's "next strategic target".

Hersh says that American special forces have conducted reconnaissance missions inside Iran for six months.

<http://www.theinsider.org/news/article.asp?id=807>

U.S. War Game Sees Perils of Israeli Strike Against Iran



Matt Dunham/Associated Press

Gen. James N. Mattis, who commands American forces in the Middle East, was said to be troubled by results of the war game.

By [MARK MAZZETTI](#) and [THOM SHANKER](#)

Published: March 19, 2012

WASHINGTON — A classified war simulation held this month to assess the repercussions of an Israeli attack on [Iran](#) forecasts that the strike would lead to a wider regional war, which could draw in the United States and leave hundreds of Americans dead, according to American officials.

At War

Notes from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and other areas of conflict in the post-9/11 era. [Go to the Blog »](#)

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- [Strained by Sanctions, Iran Eases Money Policy](#) (March 20, 2012)



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The officials said the so-called war game was not designed as a rehearsal for American military action — and they emphasized that the exercise's results were not the only possible outcome of a real-world conflict.

But the game has raised fears among top American planners that it may be impossible to preclude American involvement in any escalating confrontation with Iran, the officials said. In the debate among policy makers over the consequences of any Israeli attack, that reaction may give stronger voice to those in the White House, Pentagon and intelligence community who have warned that a strike could prove perilous for the United States.

The results of the war game were particularly troubling to Gen. James N. Mattis, who commands all American forces in the Middle East, Persian Gulf and Southwest Asia, according to officials who either participated in the Central Command exercise or who were briefed on the results and spoke on condition of anonymity because of its classified nature. When the exercise had concluded earlier this month, according to the officials, General Mattis told aides that an Israeli first strike would be likely to have dire consequences across the region and for United States forces there.

The two-week war game, called Internal Look, played out a narrative in which the United States found it was pulled into the conflict after Iranian missiles struck a Navy warship in the Persian Gulf, killing about 200 Americans, according to officials with knowledge of the exercise. The United States then retaliated by carrying out its own strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities.

The initial Israeli attack was assessed to have set back the Iranian [nuclear program](#) by roughly a year, and the subsequent American strikes did not slow the Iranian nuclear program by more than an additional two years. However, other Pentagon planners have said that America's arsenal of long-range bombers, refueling aircraft and precision missiles could do far more damage to the Iranian nuclear program — if President Obama were to decide on a full-scale retaliation.

The exercise was designed specifically to test internal military communications and coordination among battle staffs in the Pentagon; in Tampa, Fla., where the headquarters of the Central Command is located; and in the Persian Gulf in the aftermath of an Israeli strike. But the exercise was written to assess a pressing, potential, real-world situation.

In the end, the war game reinforced to military officials the unpredictable and uncontrollable nature of a strike by [Israel](#), and a counterstrike by Iran, the officials said.

American and Israeli intelligence services broadly agree on the progress Iran has made to enrich uranium. But they disagree on how much time there would be to prevent Iran from building a weapon if leaders in Tehran decided to go ahead with one.

With the Israelis saying publicly that the window to prevent Iran from building a nuclear bomb is closing, American officials see an Israeli attack on Iran within the next year as a possibility. They have said privately that they believe that Israel would probably give the United States little or no warning should Israeli officials make the decision to strike Iranian nuclear sites.

Officials said that, under the chain of events in the war game, Iran believed that Israel and the United States were partners in any strike against Iranian nuclear sites and therefore considered American military forces in the Persian Gulf as complicit in the attack. Iranian jets chased Israeli warplanes after the attack, and Iranians launched missiles at an American warship in the Persian Gulf, viewed as an act of war that allowed an American retaliation.

Internal Look has long been one of Central Command's most significant planning exercises, and is carried out about twice a year to assess how the headquarters, its staff and command posts in the region would respond to various real-world situations.

Over the years, it has been used to prepare for various wars in the Middle East. According to the defense Web site GlobalSecurity.org, military planners during the cold war used Internal Look to prepare for a move by the Soviet Union to seize Iranian oil fields. The American war plan at the time called for the Pentagon to march nearly six [Army](#) divisions north from the Persian Gulf to the Zagros Mountains of Iran to blunt a Soviet attack.

In December 2002, Gen. Tommy R. Franks, who was the top officer at Central Command, used Internal Look to test the readiness of his units for the coming invasion of Iraq.

Many experts have predicted that Iran would try to carefully manage the escalation after an Israeli first strike in order to avoid giving the United States a rationale for attacking with its far superior forces. Thus, it might use proxies to set off car bombs in world capitals or funnel high explosives to insurgents in Afghanistan to attack American and NATO troops.

While using surrogates might, in the end, not be enough to hide Iran's instigation of these attacks, the government in Tehran could at least publicly deny all responsibility.

Some military specialists in the United States and in Israel who have assessed the potential ramifications of an Israeli attack believe that the last thing Iran would want is a full-scale war on its territory. Thus, they argue that Iran would not directly strike American military targets, whether warships in the Persian Gulf or bases in the region.

Their analysis, however, also includes the broad caveat that it is impossible to know the internal thinking of the senior Iranian leadership, and is informed by the awareness that even the most detailed war games cannot predict how nations and their leaders will react in the heat of conflict.

Yet these specialists continue their work, saying that any insight on how the Iranians will react to an attack will help determine whether the Israelis carry out a strike — and what the American position will be if they do.

Israeli intelligence estimates, backed by academic studies, have cast doubt on the widespread assumption that a military strike on Iranian nuclear facilities would set off a catastrophic set of events like a regional conflagration, widespread acts of terrorism and sky-high oil prices.

“A war is no picnic,” Defense Minister Ehud Barak told Israel Radio in November. But if Israel feels itself forced into action, the retaliation would be bearable, he said. “There will not be 100,000 dead or 10,000 dead or 1,000 dead. The state of Israel will not be destroyed.”

A version of this article appeared in print on March 20, 2012, on page A1 of the New York edition with the headline: U.S. Simulation Forecasts Perils Of Strike At Iran.

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/20/world/middleeast/united-states-war-game-sees-dire-results-of-an-israeli-attack-on-iran.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

U.S. Reveals Plan to Bomb Iran's Civilian Power Grid

Kurt Nimmo

Infowars.com

September 4, 2012

The United States is ready to violate international law and attack Iran's civilian population if the country does not halt its nuclear program, the [New York Times](#) reported on Sunday.

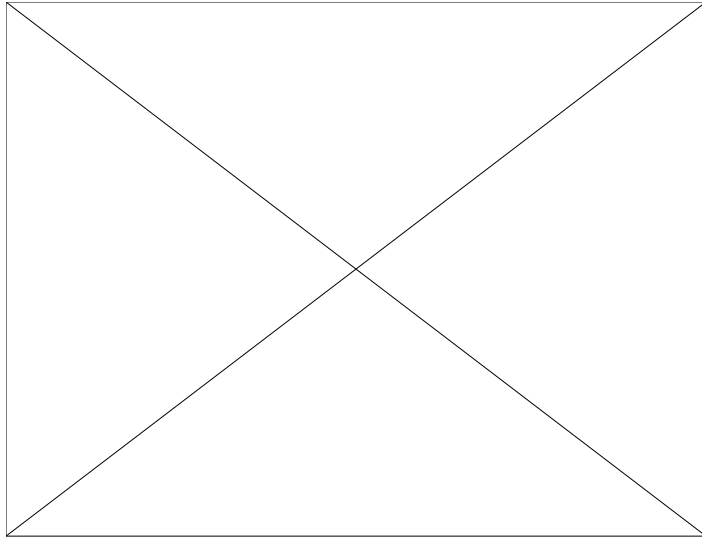


The U.S. is “reluctantly” considering additional covert action against Iran, according to the [Christian Science Monitor](#). The plan calls for air strikes on power plants and other sites “that could impact Iranian civilian populations.”

Under the [Laws and Customs of War on Land](#) (Hague, IV), drafted October 18, 1907, it is illegal to bomb civilian infrastructure and the [Nuremberg Principles](#) state that “devastation not justified by military necessity” is a war crime.

In November, [we reported](#) on comments made by current and former U.S. intelligence officials who stated Israel’s target list includes Iran’s electric grid, internet, cellphone network, and emergency frequencies for firemen and police officers.

Targeting civilian infrastructure is now a common practice. Beginning in 1991, Iraqi civilians and their infrastructure were deliberately targeted by the U.S. military. The savage bombardment had a “near apocalyptic impact” on Iraq and had transformed the country into a “pre-industrial age nation,” which “had been until January a rather highly urbanized and mechanized society,” writes author [William Blum](#), citing United Nations observations.



Iraq's civilian infrastructure targeted.

“Bombing of Iraqi cities served no military purpose but was designed to destroy the civilian infrastructure. War games in July 1990 in South Carolina trained pilots to bomb civilian targets and Pentagon statements about plans to bomb civilian targets in August and September 1990 are evidence that these targets were set well in advance of January 15, 1991,” writes [David Model](#) in his book, *Lying for Empire: How to Commit War Crimes With A Straight Face*.

“Critical elements of the civilian infrastructure were destroyed including communication systems, oil refineries, electric generators, water treatment facilities, dams, and transportation centers,” Model continues. “Over 90 percent of Iraq’s electrical capacity was destroyed in the first days of the bombing.”

The New York Times also reported that the United States is ready to turn up the heat in the Persian Gulf when it conducts a large-scale minesweeping naval exercise in the Persian Gulf later this month. It is also stepping up efforts to finish building a new radar system in Qatar. The U.S. claims the system in combination with existing radar in Turkey and Israel will create an antimissile umbrella around and against Iran, according to the [Christian Science Monitor](#).

Related Articles

- [Israel's Plan to Destroy Iran's Civilian Infrastructure](#)
- [Israel's War Plan: the Complete Destruction of Iran's Civilian Infrastructure](#)
- [Confidential memo reveals US plan to provoke an invasion of Iraq](#)
- [Stratfor Emails: Israel Has Destroyed Iran's Nuclear Program](#)
- [It's bomb, bomb, bomb Iran time](#)

This article was posted: Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 9:39 am

Tags: [foreign affairs](#), [technology](#), [war](#)

<http://www.infowars.com/u-s-reveals-plan-to-bomb-irans-civilian-power-grid/>

US special forces 'inside Iran'

US commandos are operating inside Iran selecting sites for future air strikes, says the American investigative reporter Seymour Hersh.



Iran says its military is prepared for a US strike on its nuclear sites

In the New Yorker magazine, Hersh says intelligence officials have revealed that Iran is the Bush administration's "next strategic target".

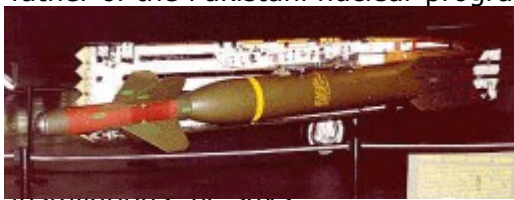
Hersh says that American special forces have conducted reconnaissance missions inside Iran for six months.

But the White House has described his article as "riddled with inaccuracies".

The authorities in Islamabad have also denied Hersh's charge that the special forces were working with a group of Pakistani scientists who had contact with Iranian colleagues.

"There is no such collaboration," Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan said, adding that the report was "far-fetched" and that Pakistan knew little about the Iranian nuclear programme.

An intelligence official, quoted by Hersh, said Washington had given Islamabad an assurance in exchange for information that it would not have to hand over AQ Khan, the father of the Pakistani nuclear programme who last year admitted he had sold nuclear secrets.



and missile

The New Yorker journalist adds that President Bush has authorised the operations, defining them as military to avoid legal restrictions on CIA covert intelligence activities overseas.

They constitute a revival of a form of covert US military activity used in the 1980s, notably in support of the



The article has already drawn fire from the White House: the communications director, Dan Bartlett, called it "riddled with inaccuracies".



Some of the conclusions he's drawing are not added.

His approach was still the priority.

"No picture in history has ever taken shape," he said. "But what President Obama believes we can emphasize the things that are under way right now."

Washington says that while Hersh has a series of scoops to his name, including the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal

It is that he should be taken seriously,

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4180087.stm>

STOP THE WAR NOW ~~IRAN~~

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IRAN WAR SCENARIOS- INCLUDING WORLD NUCLEAR WAR

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NOTE: This Page Has Not Been Updated Much Since 2005 Because There Is So Much Iran News Now

**FOR UP-to-DATE ARTICLES ON IRAN SCENARIOS DO AN INTERNET SEARCH OR SEE
ANTIWAR.COM'S
IRAN NEWS PAGE**

REGIME CHANGE WITHOUT MILITARY ATTACK

[Oct 2004: Sabotage](#)

[Dec 2004: Hawking](#)

[Jan 2005: The](#)

[Feb 2005: Psy](#)

US-ISRAEL CURRENT ATTACK PLANS



fighter jets

[Sept 2004: US Sells Israel Bunker/Smart Bombs to Attack Iran](#)

Known by the military designations GBU-27 or GBU-28, "bunker busters" are guided by lasers or satellites and can penetrate up to 30 feet of earth and concrete. Israel may already have some of the bombs for its U.S.-supplied F-15

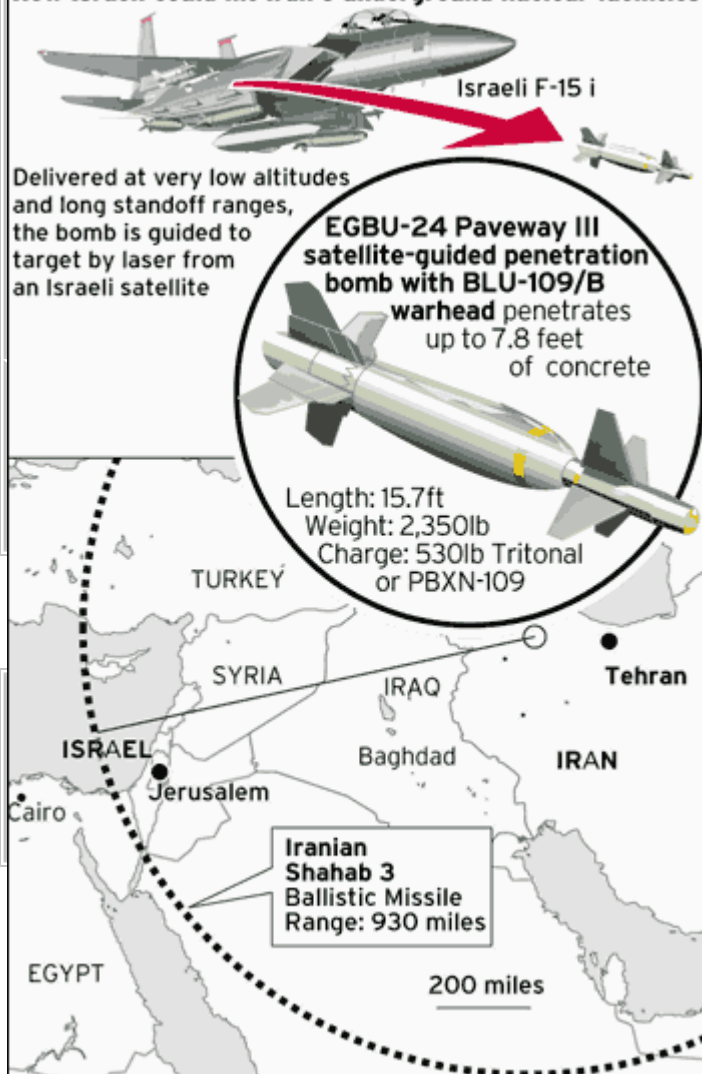
[Sept 2004: More on bombs to Israel](#)

The transfer also includes 2,500 2,000-pound Mark-84 bombs, 500 1,000-pound Mark-83 bombs, 1,500 500-pound Mark-82 bombs and live fuses. All the bombs are being fitted with the Joint Direct Air Munitions (JDAM) kit which uses inertial guidance and beacons from U.S. military Global Positioning

Satellites for deadly accuracy



How Israeli could hit Iran's underground nuclear facilities



[ME send message to Iran](#) The U.S. Navy Atlantic Ocean and is possibly headed towards groups in the corridor of the Middle East will there are indications that soon US is moving two near Sea and the Persian Gulf. (Pro-Iran war maps of US military bases.)

[he eyes Iranian missiles](#)

denamed Juniper Cobra, will test Israel's Arrow in conjunction with U.S.-supplied Patriot batteries, treats at lower altitudes.

[ary/world/iran/](#)

[index.html](#)

Sept 2004: Iranian Missiles Threaten Israel/Iraq 9/25/2004

Russian missile parts for Shahab-3 - 1300 mile range, put Israel and US forces in the region in reach. Chinese companies have sold CSS-8 and DF-15 ballistic missiles to Iran, along with cruise missiles identified as HY-1, HY-2 Silkworm, C-201, C-601, C-801 and C-802.



le missile to left, CSS9 at right.



atrocious, it's probably going to be worse vis-a-vis Iran,"
reaches at the National Defense University. The task of
urdles posed by a secretive decision-making hierarchy
experts said.

ed weak

resident George W. Bush this month will describe
not complete enough to allow firm judgments about that
who described the panel's deliberations and conclusions

characterized the state of American intelligence on Iran as "scandalous" given the importance and relative openness of the country.



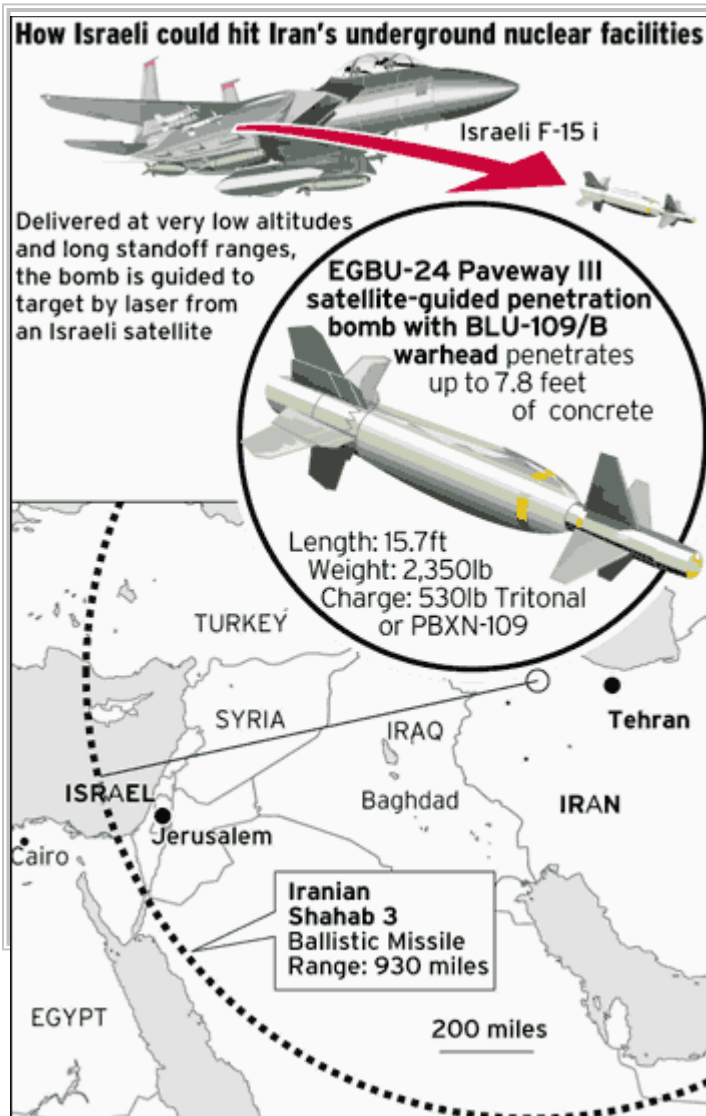
Feb 2005: Iran's nuclear sites tough targets

Iraq's nuclear program was concentrated in an above-ground location easily spotted by the Israeli bomber pilots, but Iran's nuclear operations are dispersed throughout that country, with some key centers hidden underground. Iran is believed to have as many as 20 nuclear-related facilities in a nation with a larger land mass than Alaska. (See [maps](#) of Iranian nuclear and military targets. Bushehr nuclear facility at left.)

Tech Small Arms

Thousands of high-tech small arms and other military equipment from armor-piercing snipers rifles to night-vision goggles through legal weapons deals and a U.N. anti-drug program, according to an internal U.N. document, arms dealers and Western diplomats.

VARIOUS MILITARY SCENARIOS



Sept 2004: Outline of US/Israel Airstrikes on Iran

Military planners could tailor their target list to reflect the preferences of the Administration by having limited air strikes that would target only the most crucial facilities in an effort to delay or obstruct the Iranian program or the United States could opt for a far more comprehensive set of strikes against a comprehensive range of WMD related targets, as well as conventional and unconventional forces that might be used to counterattack against US forces in Iraq.

...It would be difficult for Israel to strike at Iran without American knowledge, since the mission would have to be flown through American [formerly Iraqi] air space. Even if the United States did not actively participate with operations inside Iranian air space, the US would be a passive participant by virtue of allowing Israeli aircraft unhindered passage. In the eyes of the world, it would generally appear to be a joint US-Israeli enterprise, any denials notwithstanding. Indeed, it is quite probable

that Iran would not be able to readily determine the ultimate origins of the strike, given Iran's relatively modest air defense capabilities. Thus, even if the strike were entirely of American origin, Israel would be implicated...

Sept 2004: Four Day War: Scenario of How War on Iran Would Go

What follows is the unfolding of a worst-case scenario, an imaginary yet all-too-possible depiction of how events might develop if Israel were to attack Iran's nuclear facilities.

Day One: Wednesday -- In a pre-dawn raid, undisclosed numbers of Israeli warplanes, taking off from military airbases in the Negev, destroy Iran's main nuclear facility at Bushehr. ..During the one-hour raid, Iran claims to have shot down "several" Israeli fighters. Television images show pilots being lynched by furious mobs before Iranian authorities could reach them. The after-effects of the raid shake the Arab and Islamic world. Millions take to the streets demanding immediate action against Israel...American intelligence convinced Israel that as long as Musharraf remains in power, Pakistan does not represent an imminent threat. The decision was made not to hit Pakistan.

Day Two: Thursday - Iran retaliates. Thousands of Revolutionary Guards are dispatched across the border into Iraq with orders to inflict as many casualties on American troops as possible. Iranian sleeper agents, who have infiltrated Iraq since the downfall of Saddam, urge Iraqi Shi'ites into action. Tehran orders the Lebanese Shi'ite movement, Hezbollah, into action against northern Israel. Hezbollah launches scores of rockets and mortars against kibbutzim, towns, and settlements. Israel retaliates. Crowds of gigantic proportions take to the streets, ransacking Israeli embassies in Cairo, Amman, and Ankara. American embassies in a number of other cities are burned.

Day Three: Friday - Following Friday prayers across the Islamic world, crowds incited by fiery sermons in mosques from Casablanca to Karachi take to the streets in the worst protests yet. In Saudi Arabia, Islamist militants engage in open gun battles with security forces in several cities. In Indonesia, Malaysia, Egypt, and a dozen other countries, crowds continue to run amok, demanding war on Israel.

Day Four: Saturday - A longstanding plan to overthrow Musharraf is carried out by senior Pakistani army officers loyal to the Islamic fundamentalists and with close ties to bin Laden. Within hours, and before news of the coup leaks out, Pakistan, now run by pro-bin Laden fundamentalists, loads two nuclear weapons aboard executive Lear jets [that] dive into the outskirts of the two [Israeli] cities, detonating their nuclear devices in the process.

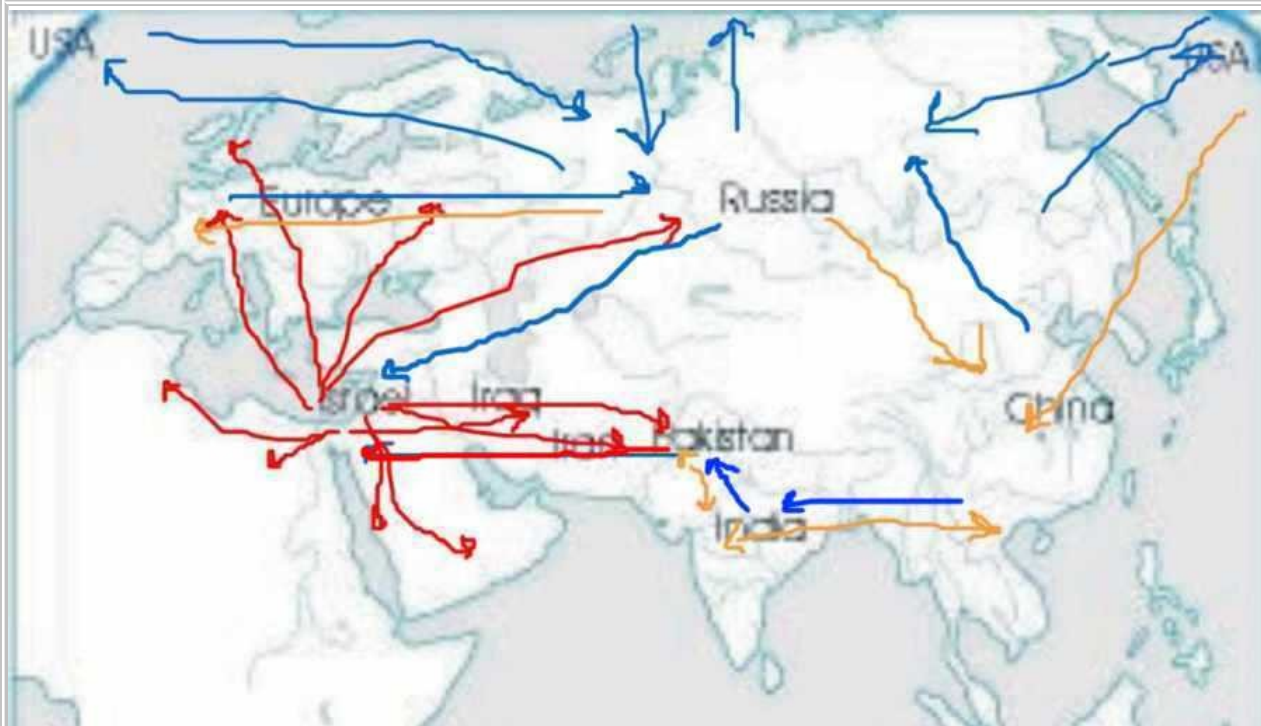


The rest of this scenario can unfold in a number of ways. Take your pick; none are encouraging.

Israel retaliates against Pakistan, killing millions in the process. Arab governments fall. Following days of violence, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt succumb to Islamist rebels who vow open warfare with Israel. The Middle East regresses into war, with the fighting claiming hundreds of thousands of lives. A much-weakened Israel, now struggling for its very survival, deploys more nuclear weapons, targeting multiple Arab capitals. The Middle East is in complete mayhem, as the United States desperately tries to arrange a cease-fire.

From: IS NUCLEAR WAR INEVITABLE? - Israeli Nuclear Threats and Blackmail

.... Seymour Hersh warns, "Should war break out in the Middle East again,... or should any Arab nation fire missiles against Israel, as the Iraqis did, a nuclear escalation, once unthinkable except as a last resort, would now be a strong probability." Ezer Weismann, Israel's current President said "The nuclear issue is gaining momentum (and the) next war will not be conventional." Russia and before it the Soviet Union has long been a major (if not the major) target of Israeli nukes. It is widely reported that the principal purpose of Jonathan Pollard's spying for Israel was to furnish satellite images of Soviet targets and other super sensitive data relating to U.S. nuclear targeting strategy....



Type of Strike: Aggressive Pre-emptive Retaliatory Accidental

From: IS NUCLEAR WAR INEVITABLE? - Alternate Scenarios # 3 (Color-coded with map.) *Israel attacks Iran's nuclear facilities and/or Syria and Lebanon. These countries respond with massive rocket attacks using conventional bombs and even some chemical, biological or radiological weapons. Israel responds with nuclear strikes against these nations and Pakistan. Outraged Pakistan retaliates against Israel and pre-emptively attacks Israel's ally/Pakistan's enemy India, which retaliates. Israel initiates "Samson option" and attacks Arab and Muslim capitols, as well as "antisemitic" Europe and Russia. Russian regional commanders retaliate against Israel, its ally the U.S., and U.S. European allies and China, to destroy its nuclear capability. The U.S. retaliates against Russia and hits China's nuclear capability. China uses any remaining nuclear weapons against Russia, the U.S. and India. India retaliates against China.*

See Photos of Progression of Nuclear War from War Buildup to Massive Devastation

Oct 2004: Israel's Delusional Plans to Attack Iran - Military Details

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has already sent Israel's three Dolphin-class nuclear submarines to the Gulf of Oman – within striking distance of Iran.

Under its military aid treaty with Israel, the Pentagon is sending Tel Aviv 500 “bunker buster” warheads in November. The delivery date is set for the day after the US election.

The bunker busters have BLU-109 warheads capable of penetrating the Natanz underground facilities.

An assault against Iranian targets will also involve Israel's Airforce three squadrons of F-15 fighter-bombers.

To reach the gulf of Oman, the Dolphin submarines will have completed an 8,000-mile journey from their pens in Haifa. Each submarine carries 20 Cruise missiles. They also have 200kg warheads, each containing 5kg plutonium.

Israel has also developed an ultra sophisticated range of electronic weapons. These are capable of: totally disabling communications between Iran's regional military commanders. Closing down the countries banking system. Wrecking its internal transport system.



Iran's Russian Sunburn and Yakhont missiles

Nov 2004: The Sunburn - Iran's Russian Missile Could Destroy US Navy in Gulf

Many years ago, Soviet planners gave up trying to match the US Navy ship for ship, gun for gun, and dollar for dollar. They shrewdly adopted an alternative approach based on strategic defense - developing several supersonic anti-ship missiles, one of which, the SS-N-22 Sunburn, has been called "the most lethal

missile in the world today." Today, Russian missiles are a growth industry generating much-needed cash for Russia, with many billions in combined sales to India, China, Viet Nam, Cuba, and also Iran. In the near future this dissemination of advanced technology is likely to present serious challenges to the US. Some have even warned that the US Navy's largest ships, the massive carriers, have now become floating death traps, and should for this reason be mothballed.

The Sunburn missile has never seen use in combat, to my knowledge, which probably explains why its fearsome capabilities are not more widely recognized. Other cruise missiles have been used, of course, on several occasions, and with devastating results.



During the Falklands War, French-made Exocet missiles, fired from Argentine fighters, sunk the HMS Sheffield and another ship. And, in 1987, during the Iran-Iraq war, the USS Stark was nearly cut in half by a pair of Exocets while on patrol in the Persian Gulf. Not only is the Sunburn much larger and faster, it has far greater range and a superior guidance system.

The Sunburn can deliver a 200-kiloton nuclear payload, or: a 750-pound conventional warhead, within a range of 100 miles, more than twice the range of the Exocet. The Sunburn combines a Mach 2.1 speed (two times the speed of sound) with a flight pattern that hugs the deck and includes "violent end maneuvers" to elude enemy defenses. The missile was specifically designed to defeat the US Aegis radar defense system. A single one of these missiles can sink a large warship, yet costs considerably less than a fighter jet.

The US Navy has never faced anything in combat as formidable as the Sunburn missile. Try and imagine it if you can: barrage after barrage of Exocet-class missiles, which the Iranians are known to possess in the hundreds, as well as the unstoppable Sunburn and Yakhonts missiles. The questions that our purblind government leaders should be asking themselves, today, if they value what historians will one day write about them, are two: how many of the Russian anti-ship missiles has Putin already supplied to Iran? And: How many more are currently in the pipeline?

The US Navy will come under fire even if the US does not participate in the first so-called surgical raids on Iran's nuclear sites, that is, even if Israel goes it alone. Armed with their Russian-supplied cruise missiles, the Iranians will close the lake's only outlet, the strategic Strait of Hormuz, cutting off the trapped and dying Americans from help and rescue. The US fleet massing in the Indian Ocean will stand by helplessly, unable to enter the Gulf to assist the survivors or bring logistical support to the other US forces on duty in Iraq.

With enough anti-ship missiles, the Iranians can halt tanker traffic through Hormuz for weeks, even months. With the flow of oil from the Gulf curtailed, the price of a barrel of crude will skyrocket on the world market. Within days the global economy will begin to grind to a halt.



During the Falklands War, French-made Exocet missiles, fired from Argentine fighters, sunk the HMS Sheffield and another ship - leading to the NEWSWEEK page story. US ships may try to stay well out of range of missiles, in the Mediterranean or Red Sea.



front
such

[Dec 2004: Changing The Iran Regime US Plan with No Is](#)

[Dec 2004: To Destroy Iran's Nuclear Bomb Program, 350](#)

(Two similar reports)

According to the London-based Arab-language newspaper A-Shark al-Ausat, a group of the US experts [are creating an attack plan]. The plan concludes three major activities:

*** Twenty four hours on bombing and destroying main Iran airbases and concentrated forces of the Islam Revolution Guards*

*** Missiles and bombs while then assault nuclear objects and non- conventional arms plants - 350 plus sites*

*** Occupation of Iran by the US ground forces located in the neighboring Gulf States, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Iraq.*

[Feb 2005: More On What Iran Might Do If Attacked](#)



The Pentagon recently revealed that, as a matter of routine preparedness, it had upgraded its Iranian war plans, and the Washington Post has reported that unmanned U.S. drones (see photo) have been flying over suspected nuclear sites in Iran.

Iranian authorities, too, say they have been getting ready for a possible attack. Newspapers have announced efforts to increase the number of the country's 7 million-strong "Basiji" volunteer militia, which was deployed in human-wave attacks during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s. Iranian military authorities have paraded long-range North

Korean-designed Shahab missiles before television cameras.

It remains unclear how much of the recent military activity amounts to a mobilization and how much is propaganda. Iranian officials and analysts have said they want to highlight the potential costs of an attack on Iran to raise the stakes for U.S. officials considering an assault and to frighten a war-weary American public.

"If America decides to attack, the only ones who could stop it are Iranians," he said. "Pressure from other countries and inside America is important, but it won't prevent an attack. The only thing that will prevent an attack is that if America knows it will pay a heavy price."

Iran's army includes 350,000 active-duty soldiers and 220,000 conscripts. Its elite Revolutionary Guards number 120,000, many of them draftees. Its navy and air force total 70,000 men. The armed forces have about 2,000 tanks, 300 combat aircraft, three submarines, hundreds of helicopters and at least a dozen Russian-made Scud missile launchers of the type Saddam Hussein used against Israel during the 1991 Gulf War. Iran also has an undetermined number of Shahab missiles that have a range of more than 1,500 miles.

Yet both outside military experts and Iranians concede that the country's antiquated conventional hardware, worn down by years of U.S. and European sanctions, would be little match for the high-tech wizardry of the United States.

Despite the state of its equipment, Iran could create myriad troubles for the United States and the world.

Its security forces include a number of intelligence agencies with extensive overseas experience and assets, experts say. Iran's highly classified Quds forces, which answer directly to Iran's spiritual leader, Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, are believed to have operations in Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, Jordan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Turkey, the Persian Gulf region, Central Asia, North Africa, Europe and North America, according to a December 2004 report prepared by CSIS.

Within minutes of any attack, Iran's air (see photo) and sea forces could threaten oil shipments in the Persian Gulf as well as the Gulf of Oman. Iran controls the northern coast of the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway through which oil tankers must navigate, and could sink ships, mine sea routes or bomb oil platforms, according to the CSIS report.

Iran could activate Hezbollah militants in Lebanon, whom it supports, to launch attacks on Israel. It could have operatives attack U.S. interests in Azerbaijan, Central Asia or Turkey.

"Iran can escalate the war," said Hadian. "It's not going to be all that hard to target U.S. forces in these countries."

But most analysts agree that Iran's biggest trump card would be to unleash havoc in neighboring Iraq, where Shiites who spent years in Iran as exiles are assuming control of the government.

"If Iran wanted, it could make Iraq a hell for the United States," Hamid al-Bayati, Iraq's deputy foreign minister, said recently.



How Iran will fight back

A week-long combined air and ground maneuver has just concluded in five of the southern and western provinces of Iran, mesmerizing foreign observers, who have described as "spectacular" the massive display of high-tech, mobile operations, including rapid-deployment forces relying on squadrons of helicopters, air lifts, missiles, as well as hundreds of

tanks and tens of thousands of well-coordinated personnel using live munition. Simultaneously, some 25,000 volunteers have so far signed up at newly established draft centers for "suicide attacks" against any potential intruders in what is commonly termed "asymmetrical warfare".

According to a much-publicized article on the "Iran war game" in the US-based *Atlantic Monthly*, the estimated cost of an assault on Iran is a paltry few tens of millions of dollars. This figure is based on a one-time "surgical strike" combining missile attacks, air-to-surface bombardments, and covert operations, without bothering to factor in Iran's strategy, which aims precisely to "extend the theater of operations" in order to exact heavier and heavier costs on the invading Enemy, including by targeting America's military command structure in the Persian Gulf.

Iraq's missiles played an important role in extending the warfare to Israel, on the US forces in Saudi Arabia. Today, in the evolution of Iran's military doctrine, the country relies on increasingly precise long-range missiles, eg, Shahab-3 and Fateh-110, that can "hit targets in Tel Aviv", to echo Iranian Foreign Minister Kemal Kharrazi.



There are several advantages to a ballistic arsenal as far as Iran is concerned: first, it is relatively cheap and manufactured domestically without much external dependency and the related pressure of "missile export control" exerted by the US. Second, the missiles are mobile and can be concealed from the enemy, and third, there are advantages to fighter jets requiring fixed air bases. Fourth, missiles are presumed effective weapons that can be launched without much advance notice by the recipient targets, particularly the "solid fuel" Fateh-110 missiles that require only a

few short minutes for installation prior to being fired. Fifth, missiles are weapons of confusion and a unique strike capability that can torpedo the best military plans...

Another key element of Iran's strategy is to "increase the arch of crisis" in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq, where it has considerable influence, to undermine the United States' foothold in the region, hoping to create a counter-domino effect wherein instead of gaining inside Iran, the US would actually lose territory partly as a result of thinning its forces and military "overstretch".

Iran's counter-psychological warfare, on the other hand, seeks to take advantage of the "death-fearing" American soldiers who typically lack a strong motivation to fight wars not necessarily in defense of the homeland. A war with Iran would definitely require establishing the draft in the US, without which it could not possibly protect its flanks in Afghanistan and Iraq; imposing the draft would mean enlisting many dissatisfied young soldiers amenable to be influenced by Iran's own psychological warfare focusing on the lack of motivation and "cognitive dissonance" of soldiers ill-doctrinated to President George W Bush's "doctrine of preemption", not to mention a proxy war for the sake of Israel.

.... Thus there is an emerging "proto-nuclear deterrence" according to which Iran's mastery of the nuclear fuel cycle would make it "nuclear weapon capable" in a relatively short time, as a sort of pre-

weapon "threshold capability" that must be taken into account by Iran's enemies contemplating attacks on its nuclear installations.



Nov 2004: World Nuclear War Comments at Woodrow Wilson Center Iran Conference

Audience question on nuclear exchange between Israel and Iran



had kept nuclear weaponry in South Korea until at least 1998, despite officially claiming it had withdrawn all nuclear warheads in 1991.



Hiroshima victim

Feb 2005: Strike Iran and Risk Huge Backlash, Blix Warns US

Former UN chief weapons inspector Hans Blix - "I think the restraining element in this must be that the United States must know if they launch an attack, there could be [a nuclear] retaliation," said Blix "There is uncertainty. They [the U.S.] may not know that the Iranians might be hiding some [nuclear weapons] prototype somewhere. They [the Iranians] have the designs and they have the technology..."

Apr 2005: On To Iran? (How to Make a New Pearl Harbor)

Neocons would love for Iran to commit a dastardly surprise attack. It has been suggested that Iran's response to a major bombing attack would be immediate retaliation by firing missiles at US bases and

ships in the Persian Gulf. It would be easy for the USA to shut off telecommunications to Iran to prevent word of secret bombings to leak out until Iranian missiles responded. The problem is how to keep this secret. One option is to allow the Israelis to launch secret nighttime bombing strikes. Only a few US Generals would need to know and issue orders to ground US aircraft overnight for a "safety stand-down" and shut down radars for "repair." Another option is to strike with a dozen stealthy B-2s bombers from their base in Missouri. A more complex plan would penetrate Iran's military command and control system electronically, and send false messages that American bombers had hit targets so Iranian missiles should be launched. American GIs in the region would be surprised by a sudden Iranian missile attack and will suffer many GI casualties and perhaps a Navy ship sunk, but it is for a just cause.



very afraid if Bush takes the war on terror to Iran. Oil prices and flight from risk might be greater than the risk of conflict. Iran is a much bigger oil producer than Iraq, and the US is starting from a stretched military and budgetary position, and an invasion would increase the risk of a more serious breach in relations not just with countries in the Middle East but with other erstwhile allies.

The damage to international relations might have a more direct impact on the markets by reducing the willingness of investors to hold US assets. This would compound the downward pressure on the dollar, while offsetting the "safe haven" buying of US Treasury bonds. That said, for most central banks, the priority would probably be to avert a calamitous surge in their currencies. In particular, in its efforts to curb the euro's strength, the European Central Bank might find itself mopping up dollars offloaded by others.

Even if the military victory were swift, the experience of Iraq would make the markets sceptical of the US ability to "win the peace". Thus the victory rally, the upward leg of the V-shaped pattern the markets traced out for the Iraq war, might be rather more tentative in the case of Iran. The damage this would cause to global confidence, among businesses and consumers, would trigger a severe economic slowdown.

Such thoughts might be seen as a serious deterrent to any US plans to launch an attack on Iran in the first place. But it must be remembered that the Bush administration is not viewing its agenda through an economic prism. As one official, asked about the mounting costs of the war in Iraq, put it: they pale "compared with the costs that the terrorists would like to inflict on us".

[NOTE: Of course, it's something like an attack on Iran that would be most likely to MOTIVATE such an attack.]

Feb 2005: Strike against Iran will have huge political costs

According to a short study by George Perkovich of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace... "Iran would consider itself free from all restraints to develop nuclear weapons, and much of the developing world would endorse this view. The treaty-based non-proliferation regime would crumble. Other states - perhaps Egypt and Saudi Arabia - could then withdraw from the treaty with few repercussions and legally

hedge their nuclear bets. This would leave Israel and the United States with the prospect of having to contemplate military action against still more Islamic states, and with a major rise in terrorism as a form of asymmetrical resistance to what would be perceived as US and/or Israeli aggression.”

March 2005: Iran threat: Attack by West risks all 'Middle East oil'



Teheran could easily block the Straits of Hormuz and use its missiles to strike tankers and GCC oil facilities, according to the new edition of Geostrategy-Direct.com. Within weeks, the rest of the world would be starving for oil and the global economy could be in danger.

Apr 2005: [An Economy On Thin Ice](#) by Paul A. Volcker *At some point, the sense of confidence in capital markets that today so benignly supports the flow of funds to the United States and the growing world economy could fade. Then some event, or combination of events, could come along to disturb markets, with damaging volatility in both exchange markets and interest rates. We had a taste of that in the stagflation of the 1970s -- a volatile and depressed dollar, inflationary pressures, a sudden increase in interest rates and a couple of big recessions.*

[US. Debt Clock](#) - National debt (low figure) and per individual, with articles

<http://stopthewarnow.net/iran/warscenarios.html>

War with Iran: The Hidden Story the US Navy Does Not Want You to Know About

By wmw_admin on April 9, 2013

Dan Lesser — policymic.com Oct 2012



Over its storied history, the *Washington Post* has come to make a name for itself breaking earth-shattering news, like Watergate, and turning over stones to bear witness on the filth that crawls forth.

At it again, the *Post* and writer Jeff Stein recently published a piece in which a former United States Navy employee alleges government machinations and attempts to

stir up heavy conflict with Iran. Gwenyth Todd, censured for her attempts to reveal the transgressions she witnessed, claims she acted to prevent an unnecessary war with Iran, instead ending up in a fight with her own government and in exile from her own country.

Simply put, Todd claims she was unfairly discharged from duty for blowing the whistle on a bloodthirsty superior intent on war and equally intent on keeping the State Department in the dark. But, as must be expected of a tale involving players high up in our country's military, the web of intrigue cannot be put so simply.

From a family with a distinct and long line of public service, including her father the career diplomatic and her grandfather the assistant secretary of state in the Kennedy Administration, Gwenyth was probably destined for the path she took. First graduating Phi Beta Kappa in Near and Middle Eastern studies from the University of California at Berkeley, she went on to receive the Pentagon's Civilian Service Award and eventually climbed her way up to working as a political adviser under contract to the United States Navy's 5th Fleet.

Also serving our country in the Navy at the time was Vice Adm. Kevin J. Cosgriff, a man of an even more impressive resume boasting three stars and the command of a cruiser and warship group. Whereas his predecessors had actively campaigned to avoid a stance that might induce war or the like – even instructing Todd to leak a story to *Time* in order to have a controversial and ostensibly war-seeking plan wiped – Cosgriff had no such scruples, according to Todd and a handful of Navy sources the *Post* couldn't name.

In a series of staff meetings Cosgriff expressed his intention of sending two aircraft carriers, an amphibious helicopter assault carrier and five supporting warships through the Strait of Hormuz with no advance warning to Iran or even to U.S.'s allies in the region.

Retired Adm. David C. Nichols, deputy commander of U.S. Central Command at the time in discussion, noted in an interview last year that Costgriff's superior, U.S. Central Command chief Adm. William J. Fallon, "wanted to do a freedom-of-navigation exercise in what Iran calls its territorial waters that we hadn't done in a long time."

Costgriff, though his plan eerily resembled the notorious Tonkin Gulf incident that precipitated bombing of Northern Vietnam and went on to leave 58,000 Americans dead, was not alone in his thinking. Even stronger evidence of the patently strong accord between Fallon and Costgriff was the general consensus that *Post* sources have espoused that Cosgriff would not have pursued such bold plans without his superior's consent.

So when Cosgriff instructed Todd and her associates to withhold knowledge of the plan from the State Department, Cosgriff knew something was dreadfully amiss. She called a friend in the State Department. The resulting series of events concluded with a slap on Cosgriff's wrist and his armada passing through the Strait peacefully after Cosgriff was forced to forewarn the U.S.'s allies in the region and after a critical conference with Iran had ended.

If you believe Todd and other *Post* sources, that was when her life began to resemble the plot of a Bourne movie.

First, Todd says the FBI showed up at her door to investigate her culpability in the crimes of the man who had fathered her child, Robert Cabelly. Todd says that when she began seeing Cabelly she was under the assumption that he had separated from his wife, a notion debunked around the same time she found out she was pregnant.

This child, their mutual interest, was likely the reason Cabelly later helped Todd land a job after she left her post at the White House, and also why he offered to give her \$30,000 to cover the up-front cash guarantee Bahrain hospitals required of foreigners before emergency operations (her post was in Bahrain). For her past connection to Cabelly, Todd had her computers confiscated.

Next, Cosgriff sent Todd out on a dubious mission, one that was atypical for her position as well as based in contradictory evidence. She suspected the evidence the mission was predicated upon had been fabricated, but went along anyway.

Upon her return, Todd found herself locked out of the Navy facility, her swipe card malfunctioning. She talked her way past the guard and submitted a report on her mission. The next day, her access card still didn't work, and an associate told her that "the front office" was very upset.

When she tried to call Cosgriff, an assistant told her that she needed to come in to explain herself. She was understandably terrified — she had merely performed a mission and submitted a report on it. Next, her computer access was discontinued, and her access cards were ordered to be returned. The clincher: she learned that her access cards had been shut down *before* she had embarked on the mission.

It might seem fairly easy to brush off Todd's story as a conspiracy theory and not as the set-up job she would have you believe. That is, until she tells the part of the story where an FBI agent hunts her down in *Australia*, years after the fact, and attempts to deceive her of his identity in order to lure her into custody.

And, as the cherry on top, the part where the Navy justifies the severing of her contract based on "unreported foreign contacts" (she had none), "financial irresponsibility" (profligacy had never been an issue), and "the disclosure of classified information to unauthorized person" (she had detailed extensively to her superiors exactly what she knew of Cabelly's illegal activities as well as everything she had let Cabelly in on).

A swirling head is the natural result of such an account. But the complexity of Todd's story pales in comparison to the spider's web of interests in the gulf as a whole. With Iran storming ahead with its nuclear program and Israel chomping at the bit to put a bomb-sized dent in Iran's nuclear agenda, Obama must tread carefully.

Yet when the tempers of nuclear nations get hot and threaten to explode uncontrolled, it seems not altogether unreasonable to consider the same sort of plotting and deception occurring even under the watchful eye of a Nobel Peace Prize winner. It seems decidedly *reasonable* that U.S. forces would want to start an increasingly inevitable war on their own terms, and not at the whim of a cornered ally or an instable and unaccountable power.

With the election fast approaching and Romney breathing down Obama's neck, the president might consider an attack on Iran beneficial not only to the national safety of both Israel and the U.S. but also as a boost to his chances of reelection. Cynical, yes, but this is politics, after all. If he were a half-decent politician, he'd be crossing his fingers that another Cosgriff is out there goading Iran into doing something stupid that could potentially justify an Israeli or American raid.

Source

Also see:

Why was a Navy adviser stripped of her career?

And essential viewing:

Untold Truths About the Planned War on Iran

Untold Truths About the Planned War on Iran

By [wmw_admin](#) on April 9, 2013